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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 112

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POSSIBILITY OF PANAMANIAN SEA-LEVEL CANAL TO BE DISCUSSED WITH JAPAN

PA022126 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1829 GMT 2 Jan 80 PA

[Article by Francisco Rubiales]

[Text] Panama, 2 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian President Aristides Royo will visit Japan on 24 March to iron out the details for the Japanese construction of a sea-level canal across Panama--a project which, if realized, would be the greatest of the 20th century.

When Panama secured sovereignty of the interoceanic waterway through the Torrijos-Carter treaties, it also acquired the commitment to keep this waterway open and efficient for all the nations of the world. This implies studying the world traffic needs and raises the question as to whether the current canal is adequate for world trade needs, Eduardo Moran, Jr., President Royo's envoy who visited Japan in late November to discuss the sea-level canal, told ACAN-EFE today.

Moran, who visited Japan accompanied by Mike Gravel, Democratic senator from Alaska, believes that the Japanese are right when they say that the present canal with locks is obsolete and will be even more so by the year 2000 when only 10 percent of world tonnage will be able to transit the canal.

Japanese private enterprise has been substantially interested in the project of building a sea-level canal which would permit the free transit of the Atlantic-Pacific oceans (and vice versa) of ships up to 5 million tons ballast and 300,000 tons load. The current canal permits only the transit of ships up to 60,000 tons, tonnage which is too costly for trade.

Panama demands that prior to the Japanese project a feasibility study be conducted to analyze, among other things, the impact of such a project on the Panamanian economy, the ecological effects, the importation and repatriation of manpower during the construction phase, the future of the current canal installations, and other subjects. This feasibility study would cost between \$25 to \$30 million and would take more than 3 years to complete.

"If the results are positive, as we hope, President Aristides Royo would dig the first shovel of soil in January 1984 at the latest," Eduardo Morgan, Jr. stated. The construction period of the canal would be from 8 to 10 years at a cost of \$8.3 billion in 1979, which would imply that the total foreseeable expense, including the inflationary effect, would be some \$12 billion.

The "Mitsubishi Corporation," which is the largest commercial enterprise in Japan, has been assigned to head the Japanese project, while "Penta Ocean Construction," the leading world firm on canals, has been selected as the principal engineering firm.

The sea-level canal could be realized only if the governments of Japan, the United States and Panama actively cooperate, said Morgan, who at all times exuded enthusiasm and faith in the project. "I appreciate the enthusiasm of the Japanese over the project and I believe that if the feasibility study proves positive, the sea-level canal is an unstoppable fact," Eduardo Morgan said. The man moving the United States in favor of the project is Senator Mike Gravel, Democratic senator from Alaska, who is enthused with the idea which would also benefit Alaskan oil exports toward the eastern coast of the United States.

Japan, together with the United States, is the principal client of the current canal. Of the 154 million tons which passed through the Panama Canal in 1979, 41 million were connected with Japan.

To give a greater impulse to the project, Panamanian President Armand Delye is preparing to write explanatory letters to U.S. President Jimmy Carter and to Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

CSO: 5200

REPORTAGE ON 200-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT CLAIMS

Claims Islands, Keys

PA201549 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Cmdr Daniel Ortega held a news conference yesterday and said Nicaragua is going to reclaim its sovereign rights over all territories negotiated through treaties, adding that Nicaragua will defend its national territory. This includes islands, keys and territories under dispute within the 200-mile territorial limit.

These territories, which belong to the Nicaraguan people, include the islands and keys located 400 miles from Colombia and less than 200 miles from the Nicaraguan shelf. Also included is Guanacaste, the San Andres and Providencia islands, and others.

The revolutionary government is going to use all legal channels to reclaim all Nicaraguan rights to full sovereignty over its 200-mile territorial waters in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Nicaragua was put at a serious disadvantage by treaties signed by the Somozist regime. That regime never cared about these violations of our sovereignty. Our territorial waters constitute one of the most important aspects of our wealth.

The government is looking for oil along its entire continental shelf, and has already begun drilling in some places.

Junta Issues Decree

PA021605 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Dec 79 p 7 PA

[Junta decree establishing Nicaragua's 200-mile territorial sea limits]

[Text] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua, whereas:

I. The sovereign right of states to the continental shelf and the adjoining sea has been internationally recognized. This recognition has been expressed in multitudinous unilateral actions, treaties, agreements, covenants and international conferences.

II. Nicaragua's present and future needs call for the utilization of the wealth and natural resources lying within these areas of sovereignty and jurisdiction to benefit the people and eradicate underdevelopment and dependence.

III. Until 19 July of this year of liberation, foreign intervention prevented the Nicaraguan people from fully exercising their right over the continental shelf and adjacent sea. Nicaragua is entitled to this by virtue of history, geography and international law.

Therefore, exercising its powers, it enacts the following law on the continental shelf and the territorial sea:

Article 1. Nicaragua's continental shelf is, in its entirety, an integral part and a natural prolongation of the national territory; therefore, it is subject to the nation's sovereignty.

Article 2. Nicaragua's sovereignty and jurisdiction over the sea adjacent to its coasts covers 200 miles.

Article 3. The sovereignty and national jurisdiction over the continental shelf and the adjoining sea also covers and encompasses the airspace and all islands, cays, shoals, reefs and other geographic features lying within the limits defined in the preceding article--whether they are above or below the water surface or underneath, protruding from or adhering to the continental shelf.

Article 4. The adjacent 200-mile sea area will be open to innocent passage by merchant ships of all nations, in the manner and under the conditions set forth in Nicaragua's internal laws and international treaties or agreements.

Article 5. All wealth and natural resources located within those areas of sovereignty and jurisdiction are [part of] Nicaragua's national wealth and are independent of any real or fictitious occupation of the previously defined areas by Nicaragua.

The exploration, extraction, utilization and administration of such wealth and natural resources are the exclusive rights of Nicaragua without prejudice to the rights and obligations assumed under international treaties or agreements.

Derogation

Article 6. The present law abolishes any previous provisions in conflict with it.

Effect of the Law

Article 7. The present law will take effect on the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Issued in Managua on 19 December 1979, "year of national liberation."

Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

(Signed) Violeta E. de Chamorro, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, Moises Hassan Morales, Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

Ramirez Defends Sea Limits

PA012321 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Dec 79 pp 1, 12 PA

[Article by Marco Vargas A.]

[Text] "This is a legal issue and it has nothing to do with power. It is a matter of conviction which is within the framework of the Sandinist principle of defending the national sovereignty. It would be illegal for us not to demand our sovereign rights following the victory of the Sandinist revolution."

These statements were made by government Junta member Sergio Ramirez Merced to LA PRENSA shortly after the publication of the Colombian Foreign Ministry's harsh statements regarding the Nicaraguan Government's decree claiming sovereignty over a 200-mile sea limit, which includes the Serrano, Quitasueno and Monsador bays.

"We are merely upholding a right," Ramirez said. He added that the Nicaraguan Government does not believe that the claim over the 200-mile sea limit will radically affect relations with Colombia because "we believe that this will have to be solved through the adequate means of discussion among civilized countries."

"If we do not deploy a navy frigate it is first of all because we do not have one and secondly because we are not warmongers," Ramirez Merced said.

Questioned about the view of some people in Nicaragua who do not think this is the right moment to claim sovereignty over a 200-mile territorial sea, he said that "they are the same ones who said that it was not the proper moment to confront the dictatorship when the final offensive was being planned."

"Those who say this," he added, "are the ones who always feel that it is not the proper time for anything."

Regarding reports from Colombia indicating that Costa Rica supports Colombia's desire to take possession of the Monsador, Quitasueno and Serrano bays, Ramirez said he thinks this is logical. "Costa Rica did this because it signed an agreement with Colombia on the division of their territorial waters," he added. "We will asked international courts to review all those treaties and agreements," he said.

Referring specifically to the Barceñas-Meneses-Esguerra Treaty, Ramirez said that it was a result of the intervention which Nicaragua was experiencing at that time (1929).

He noted that discussions on the treaty began when Adolfo Diaz was in power and that it was signed when Jose Maria Moncada was in power. They are both considered traitors in Nicaragua. "If we do not even recognize the legitimacy of the Diaz and Moncada governments, we recognize even less the international agreements those traitors signed," Ramirez said. "That treaty is a result of the intervention," he added.

Questioned about the possibility that the U.S. Congress will ratify the treaties by which the gringo government cedes "its" rights over the bays to the Colombian Government, Ramirez said: "There are some senators who understand that it is not up to the United States to cede rights over that part of our territory. However, even if those treaties are ratified by the U.S. Congress, I do not think this will greatly affect our position because those treaties clearly state that the United States recognizes Colombia's alleged rights except in the case of claims by third parties."

At the end of the interview, Ramirez said that the way Colombia has reacted is a sign of its inferiority over the legitimacy of its rights over the seas. "They feel so insecure that they have reacted with great violence," Ramirez noted. He reiterated that Nicaragua did not act from warmongering motives when it claimed its legitimate right over a 200-mile territorial sea. He added that both Colombia and Costa Rica have also claimed this 200-mile limit.

Regarding the Colombian foreign minister's dangerous allegation that the Colombian Government's dispute with the Cuban Government in the UN Security Council is linked with Nicaragua's claims, Ramirez merely said: "That is nonsense, pure nonsense."

Strategy for Recovering Islands

PA2-20-1 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 13-7 GMT 24 Dec 79 JA

[Text] Managua, 24 DEC (ACAN-EPE)--Nicaragua's revolutionary government is carefully considering the strategy it will use in its announced diplomatic and legal offensive to recover its geographic and economic rights in the waters of the Pacific and Atlantic in applying its 200-mile territorial claims. This was revealed here today by Deputy Foreign Minister Alvaro Ramirez Gonzalez when asked by newsmen about the verbal violence of Colombian government officials and failures in reacting to the government junta's decision on this matter.

Nicaragua's adherence to the international 200-mile limit, already adopted by many coastal countries, will have the total support of the Nicaraguan people and the sympathy and support of many friendly countries, said Daniel Ortega, member of the junta and Sandinist commander, when he officially revealed the intention last week.

Ramirez Gonzalez said that Nicaragua's action is not only intended to protect its economic rights in its territorial waters in both seas, "but it is also a duty that calls for the dignity and patriotism of all Nicaraguans." In the Caribbean Sea, the Moscoso, Quitasueno and Serrana keys--part of the continental shelf--are being controlled by the Colombian Government as a result of a treaty with the United States which ceded them without consulting Nicaragua. The deputy foreign ministry believes Colombia's attitude in refusing to let Nicaragua exercise an international right, which Colombia itself is asserting in its seabed dispute with Venezuela, is legally incongruous. The Nicaraguan official, commenting on Colombia's position, added that he does not believe the U.S. Congress will ratify this 1972 U.S.-Colombian treaty. "Nicaragua," he stressed, "was not present during the negotiations and when the agreement was reached, Nicaragua was not consulted. Therefore, we reject them and oppose them." Ramirez Gonzalez added that the treaty, according to which Nicaragua ceded San Andres and Providencia islands to Colombia, is also null because the constitution that was in effect in that country in 1928 forbade handing any national territory over to foreign countries.

The Foreign Ministry's legal department and the Nicaraguan government junta are considering, for the time being, the steps that will be taken to recover national sovereignty over these keys and islands and the effect of all this on any fishing treaties in the Pacific that have been signed.

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERY TALKS CONCLUDE, PROTOCOL SIGNED

Volume Remains Same

OW150025 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT 15 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Moscow Dec 14 KYODO--The Japan-Soviet fishery negotiations to decide the 1980 catch quotas in the Japanese and Soviet 200-mile fishery zones were brought to an end Friday after both countries agreed to keep the catch volumes at this year's level.

Under the agreement reached in top-level talks between Director General Nobuo Imamura of the Japanese Fisheries Agency and Soviet First Deputy Fisheries Minister Nikolay Kudryavtsev, Japan's overall catch quota in the Soviet fishery zone was set at 750,000 tons and that of the Soviet Union in Japan's zone at 650,000 tons.

Imamura, who has been in Moscow since last Monday to promote conclusion of the fishery talks underway here since November 20, told newsmen after his meeting with the Soviet official that the 750,000 tons of fish Japan will catch in the Soviet zone in 1980 includes 290,000 tons of Alaska pollack. The catch figure for Alaska pollack is 10,000 less than the 300,000 tons decided for this year.

He revealed that Japan agreed to allow the Soviet Union to catch 500,000 tons of sardines and mackerel in the Japanese zone, or 50,000 tons more than the figure originally proposed. Japanese and Soviet negotiators were scheduled to continue discussions on the catch volumes of various species of fish other than Alaska pollack and sardines and mackerel. An agreement was expected to be signed during Saturday.

Protocol Signed

OW151247 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 15 Dec 79 OW

[Excerpt] Moscow Dec 15 KYODO--Japan and the Soviet Union wound up the protracted negotiations on their 1980 catch quotas in each other's 200-mile fishery zone here Saturday. The negotiations, started here November 20, came to a formal end with the signing of a protocol on a one-year extension of the provisional Japan-Soviet and Soviet-Japan fishery agreements and also notes on the two nations' catch quotas in each other's 200-mile zones.

The protocol was signed between Japanese Ambassador to the Soviet Union Tokichiro Uomoto and Soviet Fisheries Minister Vladimir Kamentsev and the notes, between Nobuo Imamura, director general of the Japanese Fisheries Agency, and Soviet First Deputy Fisheries Minister Nikolay Kudryavtsev.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Kamentsev said the conclusion of the Japan-Soviet fishery negotiations indicates that the two nations can settle all bilateral problems, not only matters related to fishery but also problems in other areas, through talks. He also said that the Japanese-Soviet fishery cooperation will have a favorable impact on overall bilateral relations.

Minister Welcomes Accord

OW150207 Tokyo KYODO in English 0153 GMT 15 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo Dec 15 KYODO--Kibun Muto, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, Saturday welcomed the agreement reached between Japan and the Soviet Union in Moscow Friday to set the 1980 catch quotas in each other's 200-mile fishery zones at the same levels as this year. He said Japan can thus avoid a cut in operation of fishing vessels. The negotiations had rough sailing due to a stiff Soviet attitude toward its quota in the Japanese zone for sardines and mackerel and Japan's quota for Alaska pollack in the Soviet zone.

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MAURITIUS NEWSPAPER REPORTS SOVIET FISHING PACT NOT TO BE RENEWED

PA151340 Paris AFP in English 1317 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Port Louis, 15 Jan (AFP)--Mauritius will not renew a 10-year-old fishing agreement with the Soviet Union when it expires in April because of "Western pressure," the newspaper LE MAURICIEN reported today.

The agreement, signed in 1970, can be renounced unilaterally. It gave the Soviet Union extensive port facilities for trawlers in the Indian Ocean and was often criticised in the West because it aided Soviet spying activities, LE MAURICIEN said.

The paper said that pressure to end the accord had come particularly from the Japanese, which had important fishing interests in Mauritius, and South Korea.

The Mauritius Government's attitude had also been influenced by rising tension between the two superpowers in the Indian Ocean following the Afghan intervention by the Soviet Union and the reinforcement of the American air and naval base on Diego Garcia, LE MAURICIEN added.

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

JOINT FISHERIES COMMITTEE WITH DPRK CONCLUDES MOSCOW SESSION

SK120800 Moscow Radio in Korean to Korea 0930 GMT 11 Jan 80 SK

[Text] The 10th session of the Joint USSR-Korea Fisheries Committee concluded in Moscow yesterday. This meeting discussed extensively matters of mutual concern and allotted fishery quotas in accordance with a scientific method for the fishing operations in the western region of the Pacific in the 1980s. Protocol for cooperation in the 1980's, envisaging the expansion of ties between the leaders of the two countries [tunara yongsudului yondaelul hwakdae] was signed at the meeting.

Comrade Gulchenko, Soviet vice minister of fishery, and Comrade (Hwang Mun-nok), DPRK vice minister of fisheries, signed the protocol.

The next session of the Joint USSR-Korea Fisheries Committee will be held in Pyongyang at the end of this year.

The government intends to cooperate with the U.S. to the same extent as the Western European nations, but will ask Habib to exclude from the sanction a joint Japan-Iran petrochemical complex now under construction to avoid undermining Japan's relations with Iran, they said. Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, currently on a six-day tour of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, told Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser Wednesday that it was difficult for Japan to cooperate fully with the U.S. in imposing economic sanctions against Iran.

The sources said they also expected Habib to ask Japan to take a more effective stand against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Japan may not make any commitments to the U.S. requests until after Ohira and his party return to Japan on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Ito told newsmen he has not yet received any confirmation from the U.S. on reports that the U.S. would make up for any possible Japanese loss of oil from Iran. He indicated he will discuss with Habib the possibility of an Iranian oil embargo against Japan as well as Japan's wish to exclude the Japan-Iran petrochemical project from the sanctions.

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PRC, FOREIGN OIL FIRMS JOIN IN SEISMIC EXPLORATION

OW101222 Beijing XINHUA in English 1210 GMT 10 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Beijing, December 10 (XINHUA)--Agreements signed between China and 16 foreign oil companies with respect to seismic explorations in the South China Sea and the southern part of the Yellow Sea are currently being implemented. It is predicted that the acquisition of off-shore seismic prospecting data will be over in the first half of 1980. It is expected that tenders will be invited beginning in the latter half of 1980 for exploration and off-shore drilling in one-third of the explored sea areas.

Letters of agreement between China and the oil firms, which are American, French, and British, for seismic exploration in the above-mentioned regions were signed by July of this year. Prospecting and drilling will be conducted jointly with French and Japanese oil companies in some regions in the Bohai Bay and the Beibu Gulf of the South China Sea where petroleum and gas have been found, and payment for the technological assistance will be made in oil and other materials.

With regard to the mainland, China has invited oil firms from several countries to conduct surveys in a number of basins and to discuss possibilities for joint ventures.

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SIERRA LEONE-SOVIET PROTOCOL--Freetown, 18 Dec (TASS)--A session of the joint Soviet-Sierra Leone Commission on cooperation in fisheries has ended work here. A protocol was signed at the session mapping out specific paths of development in cooperation between the USSR and Sierra Leone in the area of fisheries for 1980. The protocol devotes special attention, in particular, to the provision of technical assistance to Sierra Leone in the development of coastal fisheries and the fish-processing industry and in the training of national cadres. It is intended to open a seafarers' school in Freetown in 1980. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1637 GMT 18 Dec 79 LD]

COSTA RICA SEIZES U.S. FISHING BOAT--San Jose, 18 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The U.S. tunaboat Bold Adventures was seized by Costa Rican authorities on Friday when it was allegedly fishing illegally near Coco Island, under Costa Rican sovereignty and located some 300 miles from the Costa Rican coast. This is the second time the boat has been seized in less than 2 years. The captain of the boat, Jose Augenio de Gracia Jr, is Portuguese. Legal proceedings have begun against the Bold Adventures in the port of Puntarenas. The accusation will be prepared by the attorney general of the republic. [Text] [PA182002 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1922 GMT 18 Dec 79 PA]

MEXICAN, COSTA RICAN 'ULTIMATUM' TO U.S.--San Jose, 18 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The governments of Costa Rica and Mexico have extended an ultimatum to the United States to arrive at an agreement regarding fishing for "yellow fin" tuna in their waters, according to today's issue of the morning paper LA REPUBLICA of San Jose. The paper says that the governments of the two Latin American nations decided to present a final proposal to Washington for a prompt resolution on tuna fishing. The paper also says that the Mexican Government informed San Jose on Monday that it will not renew a bilateral treaty which permitted tuna fishing in its waters this year. The Mexican note says that henceforth it will charge for fishing licenses and will capture U.S. boats as Costa Rica has been doing for a little more than 2 years. Fernando Altmann Ortiz, Costa Rican economy, industry and commerce minister, told the paper that if Costa Rica and Mexico were to adopt and implement these measures, the United States would be forced to respond in future tuna negotiations. [Text] [PA182318 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2248 GMT 18 Dec 79 PA]

BANGLADESH-KUWAIT ACCORD--The first ever Bangladesh-Kuwait fisheries agreement has been signed recently in Dacca, says a press release. A Kuwaiti delegation led by Mr Abdul Latif Ali Asfoor, Chairman, United Fisheries of Kuwait concluded the agreement with the Bangladesh Fisheries Corporation for deep sea fishing in the Bay of Bengal. The agreement stipulates that a minimum of 70 per cent of the crew will be Bangladesh citizens to be trained in all aspects of trawler operation. The operation is likely to begin early February. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jan 80 p 1]

MINKE WHALE AGREEMENT--Tokyo, Wed: Japan will take 3279 minke whales and the Soviet Union will take 3879 during the 1979-80 whaling season in the southern hemisphere, the Japanese Fishery Agency said. The quota agreement had been reached by representatives of the two nations. Brazil's quota was 944 minke whales.--AAP. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Nov 79 p 9]

COMEX MINISUBS FOR PRC OFFSHORE OIL--Paris, 17 Jan (AFP)--A French company is to supply two minisubmarines to China for offshore oil exploration before the end of the year as part of a 40 million franc (10 million dollar) deal. One 12-ton submarine will be delivered in May and a 28-ton vessel later, Deputy Managing Director of COMEX Industries Yves Bosquet said. COMEX is also training more than 50 Chinese technicians, doctors and divers at its headquarters near Marseilles, southern France. [Text] [OW171432 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 17 Jan 80 OW]

SOVIETS TO RELEASE JAPANESE FISHERMEN--Moscow, 15 Jan (KYODO)--The Soviet Government informed the Japanese Embassy here Tuesday that it will release four detained Japanese fishermen at Shikotan Island, off eastern Hokkaido, Thursday. The fishermen are being released based on a request made by Kenji Miyamoto, chairman of the Japan Communist Party, when he visited Moscow in December. Only the four men remain detained by the Soviet Union on charges of violation of Soviet territorial waters. The Maritime Safety Agency plans to dispatch the patrol ship Kunashiri to Soviet-held Etorofu Island to receive the four men, all skippers of fishing boats. [Text] [OW160023 Tokyo KYODO in English 0012 GMT 16 Jan 80 OW]

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

TAIWAN SEEKS COMPROMISE WITH PHILIPPINES OVER FISHING ZONES

OW211029 Taipei CNA in English 0944 GMT 21 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Taipei, Dec. 21 (CNA)--No more Chinese fishing boats have been seized by the Philippines in the Bashi Channel since the Republic of China proclaimed a 200-mile economic zone on Sept. 6 to counter a similar move by Manila. Yao Tao-yi (1202,6670, 0001), director of the Taiwan Provincial Fishery Bureau, also reported that Chinese boats operating in the Bashi Channel now have the protection of the navy. He said the Chinese Government has appointed men to discuss with the Philippine authorities about the overlapping of the economic zones of the two countries.

"We have proposed a fair solution of the problem: Draw a line of demarcation right at the middle point of the 195-nautical mile Bashi Channel with each side exercising control in their respective zones," Yao said. He said there are over 1,600 fishing boats from Pingtung and Taitung operating in the Bashi Channel with a combined annual catch worth some NT dollars 800 million. "Between 50,000 to 60,000 people regard the fishing ground in the Bashi Channel as their rice bowl," Yao said.

The Bashi Channel is important to the local fishing industry in another respect. It is the passage way for some 200 larger boats heading for fishing grounds in the vicinity of Australia and the South Pacific, he said.

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

JAPAN ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF SENKAKU SURVEY

OW180427 Tokyo KYODO in English 0135 GMT 18 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo Dec 18 (KYODO)--The Senkaku Islands, located halfway between Okinawa and Taiwan, cannot be used as a site for building a port of shelter for ships during storms, but lighthouses and other land facilities can be constructed there. This was revealed Tuesday by Keizo Uuchi, director general of the Okinawa Development Agency, in announcing an interim report on the results of the scientific and geological survey conducted by a Japanese governmental team late in May.

The Senkaku Islands are claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan. A 1968 survey by the United Nations has indicated that the continental shelf around the disputed islands is rich in oil. The government conducted the survey of the islands to gather basic data on natural conditions and to find out whether the islands can be utilized. The conducting of the survey had been regarded by various circles at the time, however, as a move by Japan to confirm its "effective control" over the islands.

The Okinawa prefectural government and other quarters concerned also had wanted to find out whether a port can be built on the islands to be used to shelter fishing boats at times of storms. The interim report said, however, it will be technically impossible to build a port of shelter because of rough seas around the islands. But construction of facilities on land, such as a lighthouse and a heliport, is possible although much difficulty may be involved, the report said, hinting that such facilities may be used in the future as a foothold for development of the islands.

In the survey conducted last May, a topographical survey and checks on weather conditions, depth of the water around the islands, underground water resources and plant and animal life were conducted.

The Okinawa Development Agency is not seeking appropriations in the fiscal 1980 budget for conducting a second survey of the islands. Agency officials said a decision will be made on whether to seek additional appropriations after consulting other government agencies.

Japan and China still have not settled their territorial dispute over the islands. The dispute was shelved at the time of the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese peace and friendship treaty.

CSO: 5200

FISHING CONFLICTS ARISE BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA

Japanese Fishermen Obstruct Korean Fishing

Tokyo KYODO in English Time not given 24 Jan 80 OW

[Text] Pusan, Korea 24 Jan OP-KYODO--Japanese fishermen from Hokkaido have been obstructing Korean fishermen's operations on the high seas near Hokkaido by fashioning barriers from used fishing nets.

The trawling fishing industry here said Wednesday that Japanese fishermen have erected the barrier since the turn of the year to keep out Korean trawlers which usually fish for pollack there.

Korean trawlers which used to harvest a full catch and return to port after about 20 days of operation now must spend about twice as long, in deeper seas, to reap the same catch.

Unable to make both ends meet under such unfavorable fishing conditions, Korean trawlers have no choice but to stay out, industry sources said.

Attack on Korean Fishermen

Tokyo KYODO in English Time not given 24 Jan 80 OW

[Text] Seoul, 24 Jan Hapdong-KYODO--The South Korean Government Thursday instructed its embassy in Tokyo to lodge a strong protest with the Japanese Government over an attack on a Korean fishing fleet in the high sea off Hokkaido.

Foreign ministry officials said the incident occurred Tuesday when a fishing fleet of six trawlers were debarred from operation in the open sea fishing ground by stone-throwing Japanese fishing boats.

The ministry, quoting reports from the Korean consulate general in Sapporo, said that at least 18 Japanese vessels joined in the unprovoked assault that caused damages to some of the Korean ships.

It added the government plans to make an issue of the incident when directors of the fishery offices of the two countries meet in Seoul next Monday.

ROK Government's Stern Demand

Tokyo KYODO in English Time not given 28 Jan 80 OW

[Text] Seoul, 28 Jan OP-KYODO--Korean's deep-sea fishing industry Monday called on the government to repeal its fishery agreement with Japan, and to drive Japanese fishing boats out of Korean waters near Cheju Island and along the southern coast unless Japanese fishermen stop harassing Korean boats operating near Hokkaido.

The stern demand followed reports last week that Japanese fishermen from Hokkaido have been obstructing Koreans operations on the high seas near Hokkaido by fashioning barriers from used fishing nets, and that Japanese fishermen aboard 18 boats had hurled stones at six Korean trawlers operating near Hokkaido in Japan.

The deep-sea fishing industry issues a statement charging that the stone-hurling incident and the obstruction of fishing operations were premeditated violence.

The statement said that since last month the Korean deep-sea fishing industry has banned operations within 3 to 5 miles of Japanese territorial limits near Hokkaido, and has restrained operations during the peak spawning season in order to conserve fishery resources, although a Japanese request for voluntary restraint was illegal.

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

SOUTH PACIFIC ECONOMIC MISSION--Taipei, 23 Dec (CNA)--A 19-member economic mission, headed by Vice Economics Minister Chang Hsueh-shwen, left Taipei Sunday for island countries in South Pacific for a 40-day visit. The group is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Council for Agricultural Planning and Development, and the Provincial Fishery Bureau. Members of the group will study the feasibility for fishery cooperation between the Republic of China and the island countries in these areas and help the newly established nations with their agricultural and fishery development programs. The itinerary of the group will include Papua-New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau Islands, Tuvalu, and Fiji. The group is scheduled to return Feb. 3. [Taipei CNA in English 1335 GMT 23 Dec 79 OW]

PRC PROPOSAL TO PHILIPPINES--The People's Republic of China has suggested the holding of official talks with the Philippines on a bilateral maritime treaty. The proposed treaty was expected to complement the newly signed aviation treaty which launched the Philippines as a new gateway to China. The establishment of a maritime treaty is expected to boost commercial ties between the two countries. [Manila PNA in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 79 OW]

NEW ZEALAND SEIZES JAPANESE BOAT--Tokyo Jan 16 KYODO--A Japanese squid boat was seized Tuesday night by a New Zealand naval ship for allegedly fishing within the country's 12-mile territorial sea, the Maritime Safety Agency reported Wednesday. The 299-ton No 1 Fukuwa Maru, of Yaizu, Shizuoka Prefecture, was operating about 90 kilometers off the Western New Zealand coasts around 7:30 p.m. Tuesday (Japan time) when it was intercepted by the naval vessel, according to the agency. The Fukuwa Maru with 13 crewmen, including Skipper Kenichi Shimizu, was to be escorted to Wellington at around 8 a.m. Thursday (Japan time), it said. The Fukuwa Maru left Yaizu last December 1. [Text] [OW161131 Tokyo KYODO in English 0930 GMT 16 Jan 80 OW]

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

BRITISH MARITIME REGULATIONS REPEAL--The federal government is changing maritime laws to give ships Australian nationality and the right to fly the Australian national flag. The transport minister, Mr Hunt, says the government will repeal British legislation dating from 1894 under which ships were registered in Australia as British vessels. He says the old laws are outmoded and not compatible with the Geneva Convention on the High Seas which Australia has ratified. The current Australian red ensign issued under a British admiralty warrant will be phased out and replaced by Australia's flag. A register of Australian ships will also be set up in Canberra. [Text] [OW182045 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 80 OW]

INDIAN OCEAN SEARCH--The possibility of mining the bed of the Indian Ocean more than 4000 metres below the sea sounds like something from a Jules Verne novel. But the idea is not far-fetched for a team of scientists who have been collecting magnesium nodules from the ocean floor. The three men have just returned from three weeks aboard HMAS Morestry, the naval survey ship which was the fleet escort for the Parmelia Race. The scientists gathered about 250 nodules from seven dropping stations in the middle and north-western sections of the Cape Leeuwin manganese nodule field. The field is about 800,000 square kilometres and, according to the head of the team, Dr Larry Franks, could be rich in nickel, copper and cobalt. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Nov 79 p 1]

CSO: 5200

NATIONAL CONFERENCES DISCUSS CREATION OF NEW FISHERIES

Pond Fish Conference

OW040850 Beijing XINHUA in English 0826 GMT 4 Jan 80 OW

[Text] Wuhan, January 4 (XINHUA)--More than 900 centres for producing freshwater fish for the market are being created in China, according to a national meeting on the subject that closed recently in Hubei Province. Almost all the centres are in people's communes and their sub-divisions in the country's ten major freshwater fisheries. These include Taihu Lake, Hongze, Dongting, Honghu and Poyang (lakes), the Jialing Gorge Reservoir on the Huang He and the Songhua (Sungari) River in northeast China.

The conference, called at the end of last year by the State Bureau of Aquatic Products, was attended by cadres and representatives from 11 provinces. The meeting heard reports on successes achieved in intensive pond fish culture. The 7,600 hectares of ponds for intensive culture produced over 7,000 tons of freshwater fish in 1979, a much higher rate than in open lakes and rivers. The state invested 3,000 yuan for the construction of each hectare of fish pond for intensive culture. It was noted at the meeting. So far, 11,300 hectares of ponds for intensive fish culture have been created and another 10,000 hectares being made.

Net Pisciculture Conference

OW240849 Beijing XINHUA in English 0750 GMT 24 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Hangzhou, December 24 (XINHUA)--The raising of fresh water fish in nets cast into rivers and lakes is becoming more and more widespread in China, according to delegates to a conference on pisciculture recently held in Shaoxing County, province of Zhejiang. The fresh water area given over to this form of pisciculture in China this year was 130 hectares, eight times that in 1978.

The technique consists of casting nets fixed on frames of bamboo or other material into rivers and lakes and raising fingerlings within the nets. The fingerlings are cultivated in the early stages in fish ponds before being placed in the nets. The length of time the fish remain in the nets depends upon whether they are to be taken to re-stock the rivers and lakes, or allowed to grow to maturity for distribution to local markets. Where fish are produced for market the yield can be as high as 70,000 kilograms per hectare annually. Fish placed in the nets have a higher survival rate than in their natural habitat.

Fish principally raised in this way are bream and carp, though other types are also cultivated. Capital investment is low as the nets are constructed with materials locally available. The technique is used not only by state fish farms but also by brigades and communes and by schools and factories as a sideline. The province of Zhejiang, where the conference was held, has some 48 hectares of fresh water area given over to the raising of fish in nets.

CSO: 5200

EXPERTS DISCUSS PETROLEUM RESOURCES IN TARIM BASIN

OW130215 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1408 GMT 11 Jan 80 OW

[Excerpts] Beijing, 11 Jan--On New Year's Eve, a meeting was held in Beijing to exchange views on petroleum resources in the Tarim Basin. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Chinese Geological Society, the Chinese Geophysics Society and the Chinese Petroleum Society. Scores of famous experts and scholars of different organizations and branches of science from 31 units throughout the country gathered to analyze and discuss petroleum resources in Xinjiang's Tarim Basin. Kang Shien, vice premier of the State Council; Pei Lisheng, vice president of the All-China Scientific and Technological Association; leading comrades of the ministries of petroleum and geology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region attended the meeting and modestly listened to the experts' opinions and suggestions.

The Tarim Basin, in the southern part of Xinjiang, is the largest sedimentary basin on the Chinese mainland. Considering the formation and aggregation of oil gas [youqi 3111 3079], the basin's geological conditions suggest major oil gasfields can be discovered there. In the past few years, China's petroleum workers have successively drilled three high-yield oil gas wells which indicate that there are prospects of rich oil and natural gas resources in the Tarim Basin. However, little exploration has been done there because of the harsh natural conditions, difficulties in prospecting, the lack of manpower and material and financial resources, and comparatively backward technology. Quickly and successfully exploring and extracting the oil gas resources in the Tarim Basin in order to expand China's reserve oil sources and accelerate development of its petroleum industry is an important issue that must be resolutely dealt with.

During the meeting, Yan Dunshi, vice minister of petroleum and concurrently chief geologist, reported on the work and results of exploring the Tarim Basin. Gu Gongpu, a famous geophysicist and president of the Chinese Geophysics Society, addressed the meeting. He said: The Tarim Basin is an important prospecting zone in China's quest for oil and gas. The state should begin overall planning and make proper arrangements for a thorough exploration of the basin.

After carefully listening to the experts' opinions, Comrade Kang Shien said some of the suggestions can now be adopted.

He asked the Ministry of Petroleum to give logistical support to the experts by helping fund exploration of the Tarim Basin and by providing geological data needed to conduct scientific research. Kang Shien said joint discussions on questions concerning oil prospecting by experts from different fields is a sound practice. In the course of realizing the four modernizations, what is needed is the pooling of the wisdom of all experts to enable China's economic construction to develop faster and to avoid setbacks or detours.

The meeting, during which 11 theses were read, was held from 25-31 December 1979. Speaking out freely and openly, comrades attending the meeting carried on a wide-ranging discussion.

CSO: 5200

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NICARAGUA FINES HONDURAN BOAT--Managua, 18 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Natural Resources and Environment Institute (IRENA) has fined the Honduran shrimpboat "Castilla III" up to 150,000 cordobas (\$15,000) for illegally fishing in Nicaraguan waters in the Caribbean. The boat, detained in Bluefields port along with its five crewmen, was seized in mid-November while fishing near Cabo Gracias a Dios. In keeping with the country's current laws, the Nicaraguan authorities seized 1,000 pounds of shrimp and the fishing gear. According to a spokesman of the state-controlled IRENA, the Honduran boat will not be released until its owner pays the fine. He added that another shrimpboat named "Anita L" is in the same situation after being seized last week. It is now detained in an Atlantic port and was part of a fleet that has been stealing Nicaraguan marine resources in the Atlantic, the spokesman indicated. [Text] [PA190416 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0103 GMT 19 Dec 79 PA]

CHILEANS RECOGNIZE BOLIVIANS' RIGHT--President Lidia Gueiler said that the Chilean people recognize the Bolivian right to have access to the sea. She said she has a special feeling toward Chile, since "they are people I admire, and I believe that what separates us are the governments, not the people." The chief of state, who lived in exile in Chile, said that she hopes to meet with the leaders of that country, "putting aside sectarianism and self-interest and looking at the problem from a perspective aimed at fulfilling the Bolivian dream of recovering its Pacific Coast." She said she is convinced that "even in the most dreadful wars, it is necessary to negotiate with the enemy, and I do not believe that Bolivia and Chile are deadly enemies. We do have a problem, however, and Bolivia cannot fail to invoke its right to have access to the sea." She explained that Bolivian foreign policy is proposing a way to reach an agreement which would satisfy Bolivia's desire for the justice of having a sovereign outlet to the sea." [Text] [PY181449 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2338 GMT 17 Dec 79 PY]

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

OIL PROSPECTS IN DEAD SEA AREA--Oil prospecting will be carried out in the Dead Sea area, the Energy Ministry has decided. Recommendations by U.S. expert Dr Wilson have determined that there is oil in the area of the Jordan Rift, and so drilling will begin in April. The Energy Ministry has decided to look for oil in Sadot and Shizaf (in the Haluza area) as well. In all, 2 billion Israeli pounds will be allotted for oil prospecting. Of that sum, 800 million will come from Israeli resources. [Shraga Meqel]
[Text] [TA041138 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jan 80 p 3 TA]

CSO: 5200

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: FISHING PROSPECTS PROMISING

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 22 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

THE OUTLOOK for the 1980 deep-sea fishing industry looks promising and SWA's extended fishing zone of 200 miles will effectively be brought into use in the foreseeable future, according to the director of Economic Affairs, Mr Piet Kruger.

In an interview this morning, Mr Kruger said that he had attended the meeting of the Commission of the ICSEAF countries in December in Lisbon, at which the quotas for the ICSEAF areas were established.

This area, he explained, extended from the northern point of the Angolan border to the eastern boundary of the Republic. He said that the quotas given by the ICSEAF were recommendations, but the final decision and allocation was left to the country itself.

He said that the ICSEAF had no jurisdiction in the zone. A final decision was left to the management authorities.

It had been recommended that 10 20 000 tons of whitefish could be caught in SWA's waters, made up as follows:

● maasbanker — 500 000

tons

● mackerel — 200 000 tons

● hake — 320 000 tons

In the past, foreign trawlers had been allowed to fish for pelagic fish, but this had since been cancelled. There was a closed zone from the coastline to 13.5 miles into the sea, which extended from the Kunene River to the Orange River. In this closed zone, or area no deep sea trawlers were allowed. Only small coastal trawlers were allowed to operate.

In addition, in the past SWA had not benefited from any income derived from fish netted by foreign trawlers along her coast.

However this will change as soon as a 200 mile zone becomes effective. Then SWA will receive payment on each ton of fish caught by foreign trawlers.

During the past years, Mr Kruger said, the quotas for hake had been progressively lowered and up to 1977 no quotas were given for maasbanker or chub mackerel. Now however, for this year a global quota had been given for both species.

During 1977 the hake quota had been 520 000 tons; for 1978 it was lowered to 480 000, last year to 415 900.

Since the SA and Angolan fishing zones had been extended to 200 miles in 1977, there have been reports that the fish resources had recovered successfully.

Things will take a bit longer in SWA's waters however, because the fishing resources here are depleted to a serious degree. But a 200 mile zone will mean a definite improvement in the fishing industry and new factories will be needed for the deep sea fish.

CSO: 4420

ICELAND FISHERIES MINISTER DENIES NORWEGIAN CHARGE

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 7 Jan 80 p 20

[Article: "Iceland Surprised at Norwegian Criticism"]

[Text] "We cannot understand at all that the Norwegian fisheries minister regrets developments in Icelandic capelin fishing during the fall and winter," says Iceland's Fisheries Minister Kjartan Johannsson in comments to AFTENPOSTEN. "We base our fishing quotas on continuous monitoring of stocks and our figures show that there is much more capelin than was believed last fall," says Kjartan Johannsson.

Last Saturday, Fisheries Minister Eivind Bolle sharply criticized the Icelanders' fishing over the capelin quota for Icelandic waters and said that he intended to take up the question of the extent of Iceland's winter capelin catch with Icelandic authorities in the next few days.

At the board meeting of the Association of Fishing Boat Owners last weekend in Haugesund, Eivind Bolle said that it had been difficult for Norwegian authorities to carry out a ban on Norwegian capelin fishing at Jan Mayen beginning 20 August last year. "We did it, trusting that this would facilitate consultations with Iceland," he said and added:

"It is with regret that we have subsequently noted developments in Icelandic capelin fishing. Altogether, Iceland caught 440,000 tons of capelin during the fall fishing season out of a total quota of 650,000 tons for the summer of 1979 and spring of 1980. We have now been informed that Iceland may allow a catch of around 275,000 tons of capelin during the winter season this year. That means that Iceland alone will account for 715,000 tons."

In addition to that, there is the Norwegian catch of 124,000 tons and a smaller quantity taken by Faroe Island fishermen, so the total quantity will be close to 850,000 tons of capelin," Bolle said.

Fisheries Minister Kjartan Johannsson does not share Eivind Bolle's concern for capelin stocks. "We have followed a very responsible line in setting our quotas," he says. "We are continuously calculating the size of stocks and determining quotas on this basis. We have also reported our findings to Norwegian oceanographers and I am surprised at the Norwegian fisheries minister's reaction.

According to Kjartan Johannsson, Iceland's capelin quota for January is set at 100,000 tons and the quota for the rest of the winter will be evaluated at the end of January or beginning of February.

Eivind Bolle says he was not aware that capelin stocks have been larger than anticipated when the total quota was set at 650,000 tons. "Nor have Norwegian researchers been out on new expeditions after that time," says Bolle, "and according to our researchers, around September and October is the time to make the most reliable estimates of stock sizes.

Fisheries Minister Bolle will contact Icelandic authorities within the next few days to find out why the Icelanders are catching so much fish.

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CSO: 5200

SPAIN

BRIEFS

SPAIN-EEC FISHING AGREEMENT--As the fishing agreement between Spain and the EEC for 1980, signed last night in Brussels, will not come into force until 1 March, the Spanish delegation has proposed to the EEC a mechanism that will enable a group of fishing boats to start fishing in a few days' time, if possible by 11 February in order to end the present crisis which is forcing Spanish boats to stay in harbor. A mixed working group from the EEC and the under secretariat for fishing this morning began work on speeding up the implementation of this system. In general terms, the agreement consists of returning 32 of last year's licenses to the EEC and extending the remaining 168, which we can keep for 1980. This year we shall be able to catch 11,800 tons of hake, compared with 14,000 last year, and twice that for each of two other species. As the head of the Spanish delegation, Ambassador Bassols said that agreement is possible. Of course, it is not a satisfactory agreement. We even risked breaking off fishing relations with the EEC to make agreement possible. This is as far as the Spanish delegation can go. If Spain were not a candidate for membership, Spain would get nothing. We would have been excluded from the EEC waters, just like the USSR and other countries. [LD051434 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1130 GMT 5 Feb 80 LD]

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